

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) FY12 Middle School Course Recovery (MSCR)

- 1. Q. Which students will benefit the most from the MSCR Program?**

A. Any student who has failed a 9-weeks course will benefit from the MSCR course recovery program.
- 2. Q. How much time will it take students to complete one 9-weeks course in MSCR?**

A. Students will work at different rates. The average student can complete a 9-week course in approximately 23 hours of time. Students requiring more time will likely need to continue working outside of the school program (home, public library – anywhere they can access the internet).
- 3. Q. Can a student receive a grade change other than a “D”?**

A. Yes, the student’s grade is changed to the grade they earn through their course work activities, lessons, quizzes, and final exam.
- 4. Q. How are grades determined for each 9-weeks MSCR course?**

A. Palm Beach County Middle School Student Progression is followed: 80% of the student grade is attained from coursework; 20% of the student grade is attained from the 9-week final exam administered in the Lab at SCHOOL via the MSCR system after the regular course work is completed.
- 5. Q. I have heard the MSCR Odyssey program requires a 70% rate to pass; Student Progression states 60% is a passing score (D)?**

A. SDPBC requires a 70% mastery rate on the diagnostic pre-test in Language Arts and Math courses only. However, the student is not required to earn a 70% in the course overall for credit. The grade the student earns in the course is the grade that is assigned to the student.
- 6. Q. What will be the final day to recover coursework for promotion during MSCR Program?**

A. The final day to recover coursework for promotion during the MSCR Program will be the end of the 2012 school year.
- 7. Q. What subjects are available?**

A. The four core subjects are available for Middle School: Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.
- 8. Q. Can Algebra I & Geometry students recover courses in this program? These students are receiving high school credit and are failing their classes.**

A. CompassLearning Odyssey is to be used to recover middle school credit. High school credit courses taken in middle school must be retaken under high school rules.
- 9. Q. Can students do all their coursework at home?**

A. Students must complete 50% of their coursework at the school site computer lab. The 9-weeks course final exam must be 100% completed at the school.

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10. Q. If a student does not get a concept within the Program, what can be done?

The teacher is to assist in teaching the student when additional assistance is needed as indicated either directly by the student or by reviewing student data in the MSCR Student Progress Reports. Additionally, an index of lessons is provided to teachers to assign to students on a lower grade level to build proficiency if needed. Lessons can be delivered as far down as a grade 3 level and then built upon until the student is able to master the skill at their own grade level. A *Building a Custom Course* Vodcast is available for teacher support on the following TrainU Support Page link. <http://trainu.palmbeach.k12.fl.us/login/>

11. Q. The program sounds like it will just run itself once the students get started.

A. The teacher must be actively engaged in motivating and assisting students. Monitoring student performance data is explained in training as critical in determining where the student needs assistance.

12. Q. Can ESE and ELL students be successful in the MSCR program?

A. Yes, mainstreamed ESE and ELL students can benefit from MSCR. ESE and ELL students may use Read & Write Gold to accommodate their learning and understanding. Teachers may build a course to accommodate the student's IEP or ELL plan. A *Building a Custom Course* Vodcast is available for teachers to review on the following TrainU Support Page link. <http://trainu.palmbeach.k12.fl.us/login/>

13. Q. Can a student retake a pretest in Language Arts/Math if they received the entire learning path?

A. Allowing students to retake the diagnostic is not an option if they did not apply themselves. Extenuating circumstance examples include computer outage, or illness during the test and logging out incorrectly, would warrant a retake.

14. Q. Can the lowest grade be dropped if a student has completed a lesson, activity, or quiz more than once?

A. Yes, average the student's MSCR grades by hand or by inputting them into GradeQuick. The CompassLearning Student Progress Report averages all grades together, not considering the 80% coursework and 20% for the final exam.

15. Q. If a student needs course recovery in two different subjects, should they focus on *one* course at a time?

A. Yes, they should work through completing one course at a time. Students tend to be more successful in this program when they work on remediation of one subject at a time.

16. Can students participate in the Middle School Course Recovery program to improve grades other than an "F"?

A. MSCR is meant to remediate and recover failed core courses only.

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17. Q. How does conditional promotion work through MSCR?

A. Conditionally promoted students may satisfy their conditional promotion by attaining their coursework through CompassLearning Odyssey. To complete their coursework, they may work during the regular school day hours, i.e., during the student's elective and/or during the student's scheduled conditionally promoted class. They may attend an after school program, i.e., after school and/or before school in the lab, and/or a Saturday program.

18. Q. What are the recommended Best Practices for MSCR?

A.

- Teacher instructed orientation for first day
 - Explanation and distribution to each student of their enrolled course syllabi
 - Demonstration of the value and importance of Language Arts and Math pre-tests
 - Student pacing plan
 - Teacher/Student conferencing
- Regular monitoring and interpreting each student's Progress Report data
- Build courses to accommodate ESE and ELL students
 - Vodcast available on <http://trainu.palmbeach.k12.fl.us/login/>
 - Use Read & Write Gold to assist the students in reading
- Lab Environment
 - Establish a quiet working lab environment
 - Up-to-date computers
 - Students have a notebook to write notes and work out problems

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